UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/370
31 March 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 30 MARCH 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic adopted on 29 March 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement dated 29 March 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

On 18 March 1994, an Iranian C-130 (Hercules) aircraft flying from Moscow to Tehran was shot down by the Armenian armed forces, using a missile, over the part of the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic to the north of Hankendi occupied by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia. As a result of this tragedy, 32 people were killed, mainly women and children - family members of staff of the Iranian Embassy in the Russian Federation.

The shooting down of the Iranian aircraft by Armenian armed forces over the occupied territory of Azerbaijan has been confirmed by the outcome of the work of a special commission of the Iranian Government.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement in which full responsibility for the tragedy that took place in the skies over Hankendi is attributed to the Republic of Armenia.

In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic condemns this inhuman action, expresses its condolences to the families and relatives of those who died, and deems it necessary to point out that the Azerbaijani side will make every effort and assist the Iranian side in every way in the exposure of this crime.

The Azerbaijani side decisively condemns this act of terrorism and declares that this action is on a par with such serious crimes by the Armenian side in Azerbaijani territory as murdering journalists, firing on the peace-keeping mission and engaging in sabotage of road and rail transport directed against the civilian population.

It must be pointed out that the armed aggression against Azerbaijan continues to cause incalculable suffering to the Azerbaijani people. The Armenian aggression has made more than 1 million people refugees in their own country.

Azerbaijan once again affirms its attachment to a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, and notes that allowing the aggressor to go unpunished encourages further crimes with an accompanying risk of internationalization of the conflict.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic assigns the full responsibility for this criminal act to the Republic of Armenia which has occupied Azerbaijani territory, and calls on the world community to condemn this act of terrorism.